

NEW NAME FOR THE EXTINCT GENUS *MESAGYRTES*
PONOMARENKO (COLEOPTERA: SILPHIDAE S.L.)

BY ALFRED F. NEWTON, JR.
Museum of Comparative Zoology
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Mesagyrtes communis Ponomarenko, a new beetle genus and species attributed to Silphidae, has recently been described from fossil-bearing beds of Jurassic age from the locality of Novospassk, USSR (Arnoldi et al., 1977: 117). Unfortunately the generic name is preoccupied by *Mesagyrtes* Broun (1895: 95), proposed for a Recent New Zealand species originally placed in Silphidae; this genus is now considered a subgenus of the genus *Colon* Herbst of the family Leiodidae (Szymczakowski 1964).

I have brought the homonymy to the attention of Dr. Ponomarenko, who has kindly allowed me to propose a replacement name for use in publications on the family Silphidae now in preparation. Accordingly, I propose **Mesecanus**, new name, to replace *Mesagyrtes* Ponomarenko (not Broun). The new name alludes to the resemblance in habitus between the extinct genus and the Recent agyrtine silphid genus *Ecanus* Stephens.

LITERATURE CITED

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